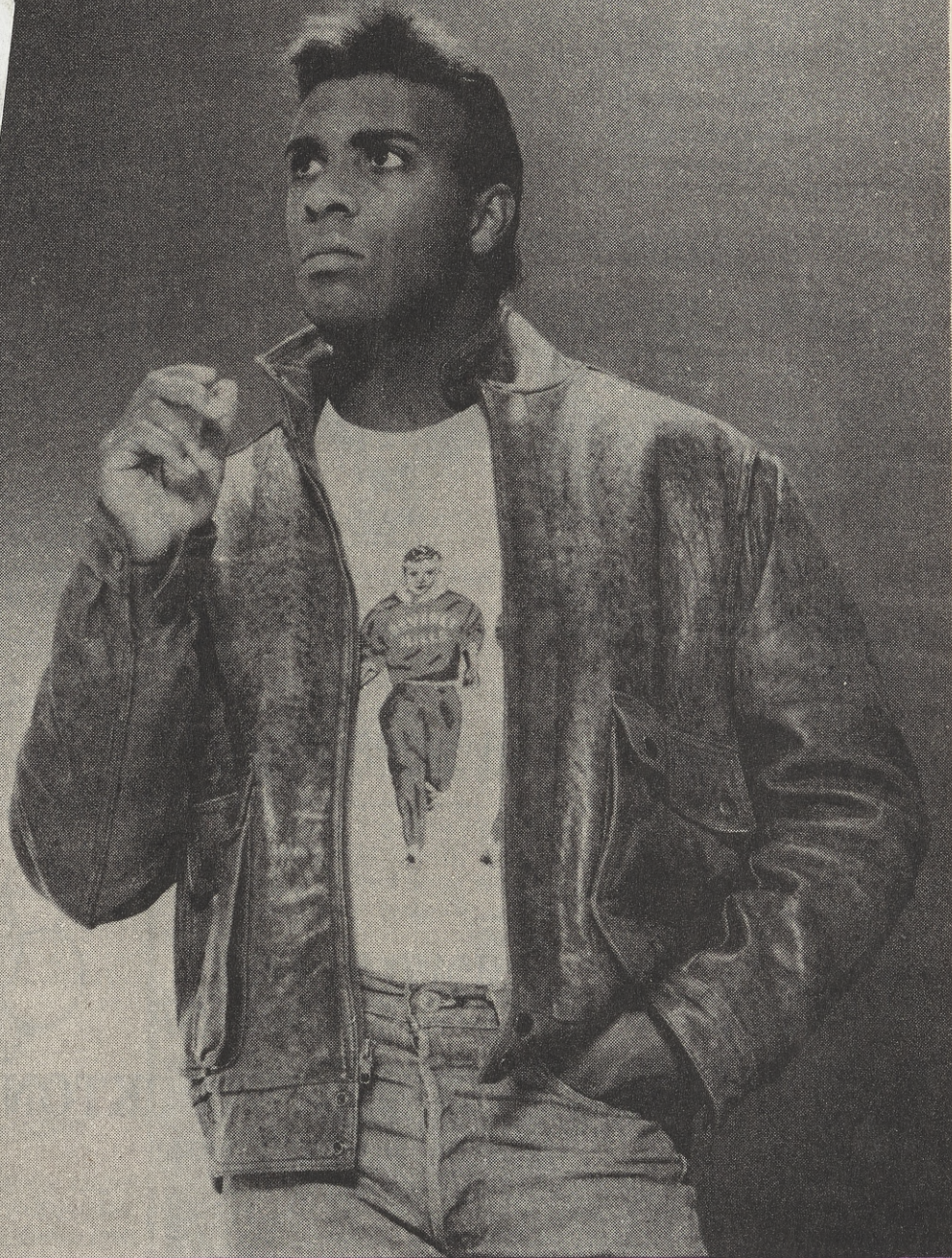


PATLAR

AUGUST 1988

VOICE OF GAY AMERICA

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PATLAR

Voice of Gay America

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COVER PERSONALITY:

Our cover personality for August is Mr. Rob Wright of Woodland, CA. Rob is 21 years old, has brown eyes, dark brown hair, weighs 180 pounds, and stands 6 feet 2 inches. Some of his favorite pastimes are weight lifting, football, and hiking. He also enjoys the theater, fashion shows, cards, and partying. He graduated from the University of California at Davis this past June.

GAY HISTORY: PART IV

by Terry Boughner, Ph.D.

Socrates and the young seducer, Alcibiades

Quickly but with the practiced eye of the experienced host, the handsome young man surveyed the comfortable, richly appointed room. Everything seemed ready. The table was laid with fine silver and ready for the choice foods and vintage wines he hoped would please his guest. The couches on which they would recline while dining were spread with rich cloths. The oil lamps gave a soft, warm glow while in the garden just beyond the open window, a slave played gentle music to complement the dinner and set the mood.

Yes, he decided with a final look, all was perfect and this time it had to work. This time the middle-aged man who would join him must succumb to his considerable charms. For the dinner, the wine, the music--all had one purpose. Getting his guest into his arms and into his bed. At the very thought he felt a rising heat in his powerful loins.

As the young man had planned, the food was delectable, fit for the gods. The music was entrancing, and the wine which flowed from a liberal hand had its desired effect. In the deep hush of night, the lights having long since guttered out, they lay side by side in the same bed. For the young man it was the end of countless efforts, the culmination of a dream come true.

Both nothing happened.

Hot and impatient, the youth turned and pressed his rock-hard muscular physique against the older man's body, putting his powerful arms about him. None, not one of the many men in all his wide experience had ever been able to resist him.

"Take me," he whispered. "Don't be shy. I give you my body and everything I have."

It was quite an offer. Not only was he gorgeous, but he was as rich as the older man was poor.

Still, nothing happened, and it was that way when dawn blushed pink in the sky.

Can't imagine any of that actually happening? According to Plato, it did one night in ancient Athens between Alcibiades, the young man in the story, and Socrates, the great philosopher. This episode was but part of a wonderfully complex love story that happened in one of the most remarkable times in western history.

It was truly a golden age when in Athens in the 5th Century B.C. our standards of thought, beauty, literature, and art were being set by a genius cluster such as the world had never seen before. Chief among these was Socrates with a mind of such lightening-like brilliance that it reached upward to the stars and beyond.

Alcibiades was born to this age, a golden boy of golden Athens. On all accounts he was magnificently beautiful with a body that one author of the time called "sinuous, sensuous, and seductive." The judgement was not speculative.

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Like all Athenian boys, Alcibiades went daily to the gymnasium, a word which roughly translates "to exercise naked." Thus there were plenty of opportunities to observe his charms. Those men who did and were attracted found a ready response.

As he entered his teens, he seemed to grow even more beautiful. That was Alcibiades.

As with many such men, there were many lovers, one replacing the other in quick succession until he could not remember all the hard-muscled arms and the sweaty, thigh-locked nights. But Alcibiades was young, life was new and sweet, and he could have anyone he wanted by a nod, a wink, a quickly flashed smile.

Then he met Socrates.

We don't know the circumstances, but the two had to have known of one another. Athens wasn't that large, only about 30,000. And each of these two was famous in his own right.

Physically the contrast could not have been greater. Socrates who waddled when he walked, had a large, rather awkward body with a heavy protuberant belly and a face that looked like a frog. Yet something clicked and the youth, as he himself said, "wandered around enslaved by this man as no one ever was by anyone."

Constantly they were with each other. Athens looked on and wondered how long it would last. But last it did even though on occasion Alcibiades would yield to temptation and slip off to enjoy some momentary infatuation. Socrates would search him out and quietly bring him back, gently lecturing him on the fact that true love was of the soul, not of the body.

Through it all, Socrates sat silent and unmoved. Even when Alcibiades warned Agathon that the man whom he loved with both a "devil" and a "siren" and that if he wasn't careful, he would share his, Alcibiades' fate. Socrates said nothing in his own defense. Only later would he comment, "I thought he would be better for my loving him."

The years went by. In 399 B.C., Socrates was brought to trial on charges of corrupting the youth of Athens. He was condemned to death and died by drinking a cup of hemlock while some of his loving young men looked on. Alcibiades was not among them.

After a checkered military career in which he betrayed Athens, he went over to her enemy, Sparta, and betrayed Sparta in turn. Alcibiades wound up in Phrygia, now part of Turkey, living with an old female whore.

The Spartans nurtured their hate for Alcibiades and mounted a plot to kill him. They were successful, and he was stabbed to death. The old prostitute dressed him in her finest clothes and buried him, made up as a woman.

There is failure and that failure, I think, belongs to Socrates. His golden mind could not touch the soul of Alcibiades and, by some alchemy, turn it into the same precious stuff as his own.

Alcibiades knew that but could not seem to comprehend it. The problem was that physical love was all he'd ever known. Yet here was this ugly, fat, middle-aged man who, no matter how hard he tried, would not have sex with Alcibiades.

Socrates tried to explain. Alcibiades had given his body to dozens of men. What the philosopher wanted was that part of him that no one had ever had. That was his mind which Socrates told him was his most beautiful part. But he did not want that mind as it was, the beautiful, undisciplined bird, but as he believed with proper training it could be. After that, Socrates said, sex would follow.

It was a relationship doomed to break. As with their first meeting, we don't know when it happened. Perhaps there was no definite point, and they just drifted apart. Whatever it was, Alcibiades went on to seek and find military fame and glory. Five years later, there was a new man in Socrates' life. He was a young poet named Agathon.

One evening Agathon held a dinner for his beloved Socrates and a few friends. Alcibiades, now at the height of his career, was not invited; but well into the night, he arrived, drunk. In a torrent of words, he told the little group of his love for Socrates that would not die. As he told them, just the sight of the philosopher made his heart leap into his mouth and tears come to his eyes.

Socrates' conclusion about Alcibiades cries through history and is a verdict on himself. "I thought he would be better for my loving him."

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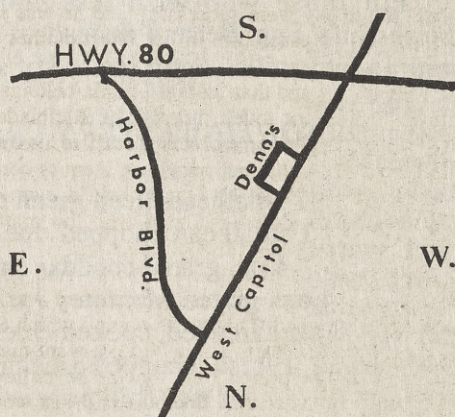
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CRACKER'S CUPBOARD

by Roland VI

[Crackers is on vacation. This month's column was written by his friend, Roland VI.]

Well, with summer now in full, full bloom, it's time for a barbecue, a picnic in the park, or a casual Sunday brunch for a few special friends. And speaking of brunches, plan to use one of the fantastic recipes which follow.

FRUIT-FILLED OMELETTE

One egg

1/4 cup fresh blueberries

1/4 cup sliced fresh strawberries

1/4 cup sour cream

1 tsp. sugar

1 tsp. butter or margarine

Melt butter or margarine in a 6-inch omelette pan or a flat grill, (medium heat).

Whip up the egg and gently pour in the pan. Cook for approximately 20 seconds, turn over. Place berries in stripes on 1/2 of the omelette. Gently fold in half and place on a plate. Mix sour cream with sugar and place on the top of the omelette.

For those who wish less cholesterol, use Freshman's Egg Beaters instead of eggs and top with lo-fat vanilla yogurt instead of sour cream.

SOUTH-WESTERN CREPES

1 small can diced green chilies

1 small can chopped ripe olives

4 oz. grated cheddar cheese

4 oz. grated Monterey Jack cheese

8 oz. shredded, cooked chicken meat

1 fresh, chopped green onion

2 tsp. chili powder

2 avocados chopped

Blend chicken, chilies, olives, onion, avocados, and chili powder. Fill crepes, place in a shallow pan and top with grated cheese. Heat in 250-degree oven for 10 minutes. Serve. Optional: May be served with sour cream on top.

To complete your brunch, serve some old-fashioned fried potatoes with sauteed onion, bowls of fresh fruit, fresh orange juice, and fresh croissants.

CROSSROADS

BRIDGING COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT AMERICA



ST. PAUL

Rabbi Stacy Offner was recently hired by a new congregation.

Offner was forced to resign from her position as associate rabbi at Mount Zion Temple in St. Paul this past February because she is a lesbian.

A number of families resigned from Mount Zion in protest over her treatment by temple officials and formed a new congregation.

The congregation is known at present as the New Reform Congregation. Over fifty households have pledged dues and become members. The congregation currently meets at the St. Paul Jewish Community Center. An official name will be chosen soon and religious school programming for school-age children will begin this fall. At present, the congregation includes over sixty children.

For more information on the new congregation, write to Committee for a New Reform Congregation, 800 Amhoist Tower, St. Paul, MN 55102.

DAYTON

Dayton Daily News publisher Dennis Shere was fired recently for rejecting classified ads from lesbian/gay groups.

Shere refused to run ads from the Dayton Gay and Lesbian Center because of his "desire to be obedient to God, my Christian convictions, and my belief that to publish the ads is not in the best interests of this newspaper or community."

David Easterly, president of Dayton Daily News' owner, Cox Newspapers, said he gave Shere a choice to run the ads or resign. When Shere refused to do either, he was

fired.

"When I asked Shere why he didn't take the ads, he said because they were from gay people," said Easterly. "Those of us in the newspaper business have a powerful obligation to defend and project freedom of expression not just for ourselves but for all citizens."

The ads in question promoted a series of health seminars. Easterly heard about the controversy after gay-rights groups began picketing the Daily News.

SAN FRANCISCO

Nearly 100 members of the Kaiser Permanente Health Plan meet regularly to plan strategies for handling their increasing dissatisfaction with the treatment Kaiser gives gay men, particularly those with AIDS or AIDS-related conditions.

According to psychologist Joe Brewer, Kaiser patients have inundated his alternative AIDS treatment agency, Project Inform, with complaints that Kaiser doctors are indifferent to HIV-infected patients and provide them substandard care. Among the specific complaints, said Brewer, are doctors' refusals to monitor T-cell levels or prescribe AZT; lengthy delays in appointments (up to seven months, one patient reported); and inability to secure another doctor when dissatisfied with the first one.

Up to 25 per cent of all HIV-infected San Franciscans are members of the Kaiser plan, says Brewer, adding, "There is no planning [at Kaiser] for an epidemic."

"We're interested in hearing where we need to improve," said Kaiser/SF medicine chief Dr. Phillip Madvig.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

While tracking the progression of heterosexual couples toward marriage is the demographic purpose, it is possible that gay couples may be included in a category called "unmarried partner" when census takers do their head counting again in 1990.

The new category is included in the U.S. Census Bureau's proposed questionnaire which has been submitted to Congress for approval.

The question of how comfortable gay and lesbian couples might be in responding to such a category was raised by Jeff Levi, Director of the National Gay Task Force. "It will tell us something," he observed, "but I predict there will be a gross underreporting." Levi did say he would encourage gay couples to identify themselves if they were comfortable with the designation.

According to law, all census information is kept strictly confidential. Individual forms are microfilmed and kept for 72 years.

RUSSIAN RIVER

Club Mud will have its 2nd Anniversary Party on Saturday, August 27. The club was formed two years ago to promote fun in an outdoor environment, including safe sex. Most members enjoy wearing boots, levis, leather, and rubber while playing in the mud. The group has also experimented with motor oil, axle grease, and water. The group's last party drew mudders from all over the United States. The next party, entitled "International Mud Day," already has reservations from Club Mud members from as far away as Australia and Canada. For more information, call (707) 869-0546.



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SACRAMENTO

Friendship is a word the very sight of which in print

makes the heart warm. With that in mind, I would like to thank my friends and reading fans in Long Beach, CA for a wonderful time shown me while I was down there over July 4. As you may know, the Mercantile Saloon sent a softball team to Long Beach to participate in a tournament. Out of 18 teams, we came in fifth place. Not bad...I recently spent another weekend in Clear Lake,



ERNIE BROWN

VIEWS FROM RIVER CITY

CA. That town's alive & kicking. The Sunset Point is the main focus there; full-liquor bar, cabins, lodge & spa. You really don't have to leave the area once you're there. Just up the road is The Blue Fish Cove, a very nice attractive place run by two of our sisters, Marge & Donna. And so my friends, is you are a little tired of SF, Russian River, or Sacto, well, move on up to Clear Lake...Back in Sacto, a lots happening here. A brand-new gay community has recently grown up in the area. Well, it's not "brand new." More like a revival. I am speaking of West Sacramento where years ago all the action used to be. Yes, two bars have arisen and a third one is in the making. The two that are operating now are Deno's Bar & Western Corral located at 3217 West Capitol Avenue and The Mecca Club, 701 Sunset Avenue (Bryte) just two blocks from the old Hide & Seek (if you happen to go back that far and goodness knows I do!). Both establishments have great plans. Meanwhile, don't forget that Take Two is still operating on West Capitol Avenue...Well, it's that time of year again: A Night of Glamour, Aug. 11, starting at 8PM at the Mercantile. This is your night to shine or to make an ass out of yourselves. All & all, it's a night of pure fun. And the best part is that it's a fund raiser for Randi's Hand to Hand Memorial Fund...Terry Sidee of Faces has another big start on the horizon coming soon. Check with the bar for who it is and when...Joseph's is still turning out those wonderful dishes from the dining room...And speaking of dining, by the time you read this article, Faces should have their dining room in full swing again. A new chef in town named "Russo" has great plans for a different type of cuisine. Good luck, Russo...It has been brought to my attention by other bartenders and bar owners that as of lately there seems to be a lot of unrest in our local bars: tension, temper flares-up, verbal abuse, even sometimes physical abuse. You can only blame it on the full moon or hot weather just so long. It's more than that. I, too, have observed it. It's distressing to a bartender or a waiter to have to play referee all night. It's about time we all time inventory of our selves. Gay bars are made for your convenience, enjoyment. For social gatherings. It's hard to gather socially when there are fights. Backbiting. Tempers flying. The local bars have all agreed that they just clean out the riffraff in order to make things safe and comfortable for everyone else. The bars are for you. But once you're 86d, that's it. Enough said I hope...Don't forget the Duke & Duchess Ball scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 27 at Turn Verein Hall at 3349 J St. Doors open at 6 PM, ball starts at 7 PM.

ALBUQUERQUE

A gay and lesbian bowling league is being formed and play will begin in September. For complete information about joining the lesbian and gay league, call Virginia at (505) 247-2007 or the Common Bond Lesbian Helpline at (505) 255-7288 or the Common Bond Gay Helpline at (505) 266-8041.

The Common Bond Library is seeking donations of books. The library especially needs books having to do with being a lesbian, though any book, periodical, or magazine having to do in some way with being lesbian or gay will be welcomed.

Donations may be made by dropping materials by the Common Bond Community Center, 107 Tulane S.E. or by calling either the Common Bond lesbian Helpline or the Common Bond Gay Helpline, both listed above.

CONCORD

The "Be My Friend" AIDS benefit for the Diablo Valley AIDS Center in Concord, CA will take place at the HUB in Walnut Creek on August 14 from 4 PM to 8 PM. The cover will be \$5 for all the beer and soda you can drink. For more information, please call (415) 686-DVAC.

FRESNO

The new student body president at California State University, Fresno, recently restored funds to a gay-students group by order of the Dean of Students of the University.

Dan William Corcoran's order was in response to a complaint received by the American Civil Liberties Union that came after former Associated Student Body President Mark Astone vetoed funding to the Gay and Lesbian Student Alliance (GLSA) based on moral views.

GLSA, a student organization of 25 members formed in 1987, had requested \$750 from student funds. Astone sent a letter to the student senate on May 16 vetoing the funds, saying: "I, and society as a whole, have not yet accepted this type of behavior as worthy of such public recognition as the access of public funds, and I cannot allow access of funds to this group until society deems it proper."

However, the new ASB president, Scott Vick, restored the money.

SAN DIEGO

Dr. Alan Dundes has published a thesis which characterizes American football as "ritualized homoerotic symbolism." However, the professor of anthropology and folklore from the University of California cautions that he is not saying the players are gay.

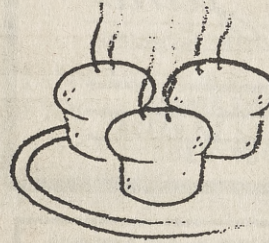
Citing the provocative vocabulary of the nation's number-one sport, Dundes noted that the object of the game is to "score" in an area called the "end zone" of the opposite team. "This is a feat of masculinity at the expense of another group of men," where the losers have their 'end zones' 'penetrated' more often than the winners."

In addition to such "playing positions" as "split ends," "tight ends," and "wide ends," commentators to the game add phallic imagery, according to Dundes, by using such phrases as "going all the way" and achieving "deep penetration."

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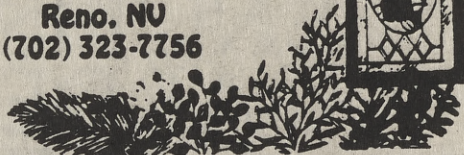
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LOS ANGELES

Same-sex couples are eligible for reduced fares on AMTRAK under the Family Plan, but apparently not all ticket agents understand the corporate policy.

Recently, Walter Wheeler, president of Couples, Inc. was not permitted to buy a Family Plan Ticket for himself and Carey Junkin, his partner for over five years. The round trip ticket from Los Angeles to Santa Barbara normally costs \$34 for adults. Under the Family Plan, the Head of the Household pays full fare and the other adult family member pays half fare, children between 2 and 11 pay one-fourth fare.

In a telephone conversation with Mr. John Jacobsen, director of community affairs for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, (AMTRAK), the official policy was clarified. AMTRAK issues Family Plan tickets without regard to the sex of the family members.

The policy, changed in 1985, is meant to be non-judgmental and no inquiry is to be made of the family's legal status, with no proof being required. Anyone can obtain a Family Plan ticket by presenting themselves as the Head of the Household and the other members of their family. The couple must be willing to say they are "married" because the official policy requires that the half fare adult be a spouse. It does not define "spouse." A Head of the Household and children under 12 can qualify in any case. The policy is being rewritten to eliminate family requirements for reduced fares.

HOROSCOPES

by Pat Larr, Sci.D.

LEO (Jul 23-Aug 22): A swimmer's body comes swimming up to you from the beach. Yes, one last summer romance before it's time to get dressed for fall.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22): A friend from the past comes to your rescue. Now it's your turn to rescue him.

LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 22): A terrible night on the town leads to a surprising romance. A one-nighter turns into an every-nighter.

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): Aries messes with your sign mid-month. He gets you all hot and messy and begging for a clean towel.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): He's young. He's got curly blond hair, abs for days, and a big crush on you. Are you man enough? This month the answer is YES!

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): All work and no play is turning you into one very dull boy. Time to get out and use "party" as a verb.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18): Go slowly with that brand-new romance. You may be making the same mistake twice in a row.

PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20): Money problems ease up mid-month. You'll soon be able to stop pinching pennies and starting pinching other things.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19): The fickle finger of Fate wiggles a digit at you. Yes, the stars say you're destined to sit on it mid-month.

TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20): A dark and humpy number longs to measure up to your standards. He's got the size; have you got the stick?

GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20): A hot August night warms you where you want it most! You'll work up a sweat with no sweat. Enjoy!

CANCER (May 21-Jul 22): Not your type, but oh so sweet. Your special someone loves you more than you know. This month it's your turn to reciprocate.

AIDS/ARC Discount Medication Program

The AIDS/ARC Discount Medication Program is now available to anyone in the US with a valid physician's prescription. Kim Richardson, R.Ph., Vice President of Family Pharmaceuticals, has announced the expansion of the result of requests from physicians and people who enrolled during the first six months of the program.

"After discussions with people with AIDS and many of the individuals who work with people with AIDS, it was apparent that not only was a price a problem, so were confidentiality and availability. We designed our program around these three factors," Richardson added, "We are pleased to be able to expand the program to include all medications commonly used for treatment of AIDS and ARC related problems...our prices are among the lowest in the country....Though the prices charged by the manufacturer may go up or down, Family is committed to keeping its prices as low as possible."

"Confidentiality is assured because we never reveal the names of any of our patients and all orders are shipped in unmarked packages....Since we ship to anywhere in America, individuals not fortunate enough to live close to a pharmacy can enjoy the convenience of our program which is as close as their telephone."

"Once enrolled, all you have to do is send in your prescription and payment. In about a week, your medications will arrive by UPS. The invoice enclosed with the medication can be used for insurance reimbursement."

Enrollment consists of phoning 1-800-922-3444 (a free call).

FREE INFORMATION FOR LESBIANS VISITING AMSTERDAM

Peter Glencross, Publisher and Editor of the very successful TOP GUIDE TO AMSTERDAM (for male gays) has decided to make available, free of charge, information on the scene in Amsterdam for lesbians.

A computer printout of the latest information will gladly be sent on request.

Glencross is offering this service because so many women have written and telephoned asking questions as varied as:

Where can two women get married in Amsterdam?

Is there an exclusively lesbian hotel in Amsterdam?

Where can I meet a male gay who would take me to gay bars because I don't like going on my own?

Is it true that there is a lesbian bar with a backroom in Amsterdam? If so, please send the address.

Are there English-language lesbian bookshops in Amsterdam?

The free information sheets are available from: The TOP GUIDE TO AMSTERDAM, Postbox 22643, NO-1100 DC Amsterdam, The Netherlands. A large, self-addressed but unstamped envelope will be appreciated.

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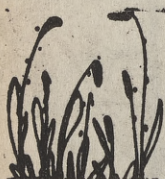
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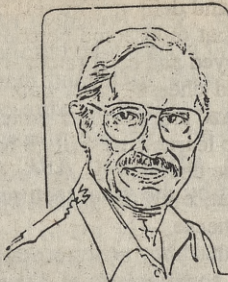
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"These last few months I have been a bright little star shining my light out onto the world and those loving people in it. Thank you for being part of the lighting of my torch!!"



RALPH

and there is more...

That sentence from a post card just received yesterday from a graduate of the YOU Experience we did last Easter in Hawaii. It was good to hear from Tom [not his real name] because he was the only member of that group we'd not had highly positive reports on in the months since. He seemed to have "disappeared." Turns out, as his card says, "I'm in the middle of a two-month tour around the country by car," and the card was mailed from Idaho--a far distance from Hawaii. He explains: "Let me tell you now that my experience with you and the YOU pushed me over the edge into the most incredible learning, loving and growing periods of my life so far."

Well, that speaks well for the YOU Experience, but it speaks much more for Tom. He was clearly a "favorite" of mine with his sort of "lost neediness." And, he's now moved past that into a period of exploration and discovery in his life.

You see, the YOU does indeed "push people over the edge" into the discovery of their own and other's wonder and beauty. Or, as PEDLA might put it, it moves them "into the Light." "It is easy to move into the Light," according to KARL. KARL then continues: "It is even easier to move back out!"

Oh, don't I know! And, recognize it or not, so do you know! Each of us has at one or more times in our lives dipped into the great beyond of wonder, of beauty, of complete and total love. We've "sampled" that, either by accident or by design. It happened at a wondrous person we met, or first hearing a Beethoven Quartet at Tanglewood (or the Hollywood Bowl), or ascending the mountaintop, just at sunrise, or smelling the scent of orange blossoms in Florida at Christmas-time, or feeling the ocean breeze of evening at the end of a hot summer's day, or sometimes, feeling richly and deeply "at one" in loving sex...Any of these or other experiences can open you, if only momentarily, to that vastness of love and beauty and wholeness which is your birthright, your natural inheritance.

Yet, unfortunately, we mistake the thing which triggered the experience, the opening, for what we opened to. Any of these can show us a glimpse of who-we-really-are and release the "false personality" in which we believe we are hopelessly trapped.

As I watch Zachary, just now past his first birthday, as he explores, plays, flirts, engages with the world, I see that same joy, delight, ecstasy which is there in humans and in the world, but which you and I have had, yet now--most of the time--have lost or forgotten, as we've closed ourselves up in the "real world" of practicality, routine, and boredom. We are so bored that we now must fake the ecstasy of true aliveness with more sex, flashier cars, a new wardrobe or hair style. We yearn for the "more" but do not know where to look for it. But even greater is the tragedy of the fact that even when we do open to that Light--the Light which Tom is living and dancing in, right now--most of us will all too readily go back out of the light.

Why? PEDLA has said that it is much easier to return to what is familiar, even when it is painful or unrewarding, than to continue exploring the limitless regions of possibility.

I suggest that Zachary has a wisdom that we have lost. He knows that every single person or thing out there in the world is a possible source of joy and delight. The rest of us have "all been carefully taught" that only some persons, places, things are supposed to be enjoyed and celebrated.

Warner Erhard's famous "rat and cheese" story puts it this way: A rat can learn to run a maze and discover which tunnel has the cheese at the end. Once learned, he will go for that tunnel, unerringly. Then move the cheese, and he'll still go down that tunnel--for a while. But, eventually, he'll explore the other tunnels, and find the cheese.

The difference with humans is that they will go down the same tunnel forever...because at some early point they decided that since it had cheese then, it is the right tunnel now!

It's the same way with the Light! For Zachary, all is Light! Or, for Tom, right now, everything is the Light! Somewhere in between where Zachary and Tom is, most of us have gotten "stuck." We were "carefully taught" and we have thus been led to believe that we must select what we really want from among a very narrow range of possibilities. And, from among those, we've gotten fixated on a very few which perhaps did, at some point, provide us "openings." Or, if not that, at least a simulation of true opening, as is the case with alcohol and drugs. We become conditioned to the notion of those particular things as the "right tunnel." But unlike the finally smartened up rat, or unlike Zachary, or Tom, we keep going back to what no longer works.

For, you see, what produces "cheese" in life, what produces the experience of true aliveness, or counting for something, or "making a difference" in the world is no longer found in the "tried and true." It is necessary to explore other tunnels--to be open to the vast range of possible options that the world always provides--except for the fact that we've come to believe the options are few and limited and necessarily restricting.

If there is any secret to the YOU Experience, it is that during those two days, each of the participants gets a chance at a number of "other tunnels," most of which will yield a lot of cheese--or, joy, satisfaction, love, delight, ridiculousness, fun! AND, better yet, they come to see that they do have control--that they are "the chooser," and can elect their own path from among that vast array of what is there--for any of us, all of the time. And, in their choosing they have discovered how to produce--or, more accurately--how to permit, allow, embrace true joy and fulfillment in their lives.

Some, I admit, take those discoveries and file them away under "some day" or "that isn't for me as a parent (or child, or straight person, or gay person, or...you name it!)" Some, like Tom, bless him, realize that it is their birthright, and take the insights and run with them...choose a life of joy and fulfillment!

Goodspeed, Tom! You hold a most important key; it's one of the koans of the weekend: "Everybody out there is your friend; most of them don't know it yet."

Tom, you see, is letting them know it--by living it!

[Ralph is founder of The Loving Brotherhood and developer and leader of The ALL NEW YOU Experience. The YOU will be offered in Phoenix next October 1, 2 & 3--and at The Barn, in Sussex, NJ October 29 & 30. Information from Ralph at PO Box 556, Sussex, NJ 07461 or (201) 875-4710.]

[For any of you who were unable to locate the book, PRETTY FLOWER, mentioned last month, it can be ordered from Sand Castle Publishing, PO Box 629, Virginia Beach, VA 23451. The price is \$12 plus shipping.]

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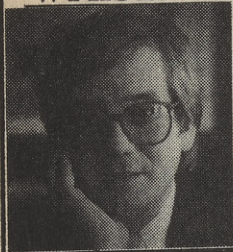
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FICTION

HOW DO YOU SAY "I LOVE YOU?"

by Lloyd R. Grosvenor

[Part 4 of 5 parts]

[The story thus far: Bobby Fitzgerald, a "medic" on a World War II South Pacific

island, has treated and cared for and given a transfusion of his own blood to a Japanese soldier he and Sgt. Kurt Lautzenheizer (straight?) found in a cave nearly dead. Bobby and the sergeant, along with the other two members of the detail, had been sent on this detail (with intentions other than honorable) by Lt. Swearengen. Bobby had had a "brief encounter" with Kurt back at Fort Benning, and is so sure Kurt also had more than that with Swearengen that he blackmails Swearengen into getting him assigned to accompany the wounded Japanese soldier to the hospital ship and thence to Honolulu. He has just learned from Kurt that his soldier/patient is now conscious, so he hurries to his bedside.]

* * * * *

When I got to my "enemy" patient, I could see he was conscious, but not so that I could carry on a lengthy dialogue with him. His dressings had been changed, an intravenous needle had been stuck in his good arm, and on the bedside table, a bowl of broth, cold and untouched.

I took the chart from the foot of the bed as officiously as possible, glanced at it, pretended to study it; but I was really studying him.

I had a sudden scared feeling in the pit of my stomach—not really fear, but akin to fear—indefinable. Like the feeling you get when you go down the first dip of a roller coaster and hit the bottom and start back up again.

I tried to control it, telling myself that here was just another soldier, another patient, like hundreds of others I'd attended, and that he might have a cardiac arrest and go any moment. The thought made my insides jump.

For a fleeting moment, I tried to analyze this feeling. I had never felt so close to any other patient. A patient was just a body. A piece of meat, albeit a living piece of meat, and you tried to keep it from being a piece of dead meat.

Quickly, faster than I can say it here, my mind rationalized this feeling as coming from the fact that this man had my blood in him.

I spoke to him, though his eyes were not open.

"Ei-go deki-masu ka?" (Do you speak English?) [That is, English is possible?] I didn't have to look it up this time.

He opened his eyes. "Iie, deki-masen." (No, not possible.)

[Was he in pain? Was he angry? Frightened? Pleased that he'd been cared for? What could he be feeling—a man whose culture forbade any expression of emotion to men? Even anger was reserved for females to express.]

He said, "Nihongo ga deki-masu ka?" (Is Japanese possible?)

"Hai, Taihen heta desu. Sukoshi deki-masu." (Yes, I very poor in skill. A little is possible.)

I was amazed that the "Useful Expressions" were coming back to me.

I was able to learn that his name was Tokuo Yamamoto (Yamamoto-san Tokuo) and that he had a family in Nagasaki.

I did not tell him that Nagasaki had been one of the cities blown up by our atomic bomb.

I said finally (still in Japanese), "What is Makoto?"

He closed his eyes, turned his head on his pillow toward his good right arm and would say nothing more.

* * * * *

Colonel Chance could see at once that Tokuo's shoulder was badly damaged, and that it could not be handled at the field hospital. And now, three days later when it appeared that Tokuo

would indeed survive, there was no question that he would be sent to the hospital ship.

Colonel Chance was hard put to it to release me, considering all the wounded that had to be tended to, but I had been his right-hand surgical technician for some time and he knew me pretty well. He seemed to sense my great desire to go with Tokuo.

No "arrangement" had come from Lt. Swearngen (that I knew of), but Colonel Chance did say Swearngen had sent a note about the Japanese officer, indicating "at the Colonel's discretion" his (Swearngen's) recommendation was he be sent back to his own people and let them stand the gaff of taking care of him. (No mention was made of me or of my threat or of Lautzenheizer.)

During those three days while Tokuo's prognosis was doubtful, I had a few more short conversations with him. I suppose you could call them conversations--with his no-English and my barely-Japanese.

I found out that he was the equivalent of a Lieutenant and was nineteen, not sixteen years old. When I expressed amazement at his youthful appearance and said, as well as I could put the complicated language together: "How do you manage to stay so young looking?", he replied, "Easy. Be oriental."

It sounded to me like a doubtful joke; but he did not smile and there was no humour in his voice.

He and the others had heard that the war was over by way of a small receiving set in the cave (which we, evidently had failed to discover). He knew all about Nagasaki and assumed that his people were all wiped out.

I gathered that he felt the others whom we found dead in the cave were better off than he with his crippled arm and the pain he was in (although he never grimaced or complained about it), as the Japanese had lost the war and had gone down in defeat, and the others would not have to live with the disgrace.

He added: "One must save face." (As nearly as I can translate his words.)

* * * * *

When we got to the beach with Tokuo and three other patients on gurneys, I was a little surprised to see Lautzenheizer standing alongside the L.C.I. (Landing Craft, Infantry), giving orders and looking tough.

"What are you doing here?" I said.

He shifted his unlit cigar to the other corner of his mouth.

"You gotta have somebody knows what he's doin' on this trip, Fitzgerald. So you won't fuck up."

"I'm not in charge of this detail," I said. "I may have the title of surgical technician, but right now I'm just the nurse."

"I know you ain't in charge of the detail. I am."

"You? Did Swearngen put you in charge?"

"Nope. He tried to stop the whole operation."

"What?"

"He didn't get far. The Old Man put me in charge. Your surgeon out-ranks Barge-Bucket's ass."

"Now that you're in charge, what are you going to do?"

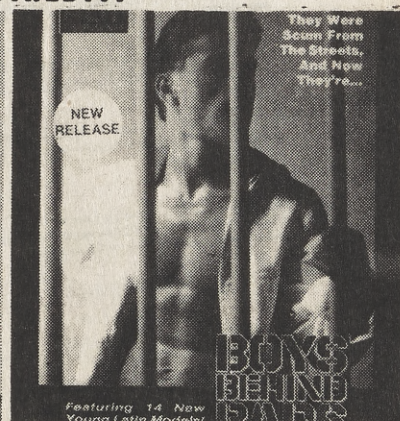
"See that everything runs copa-setick and nobody gets hurt."

"Are you trying to be nice, Lautzenheizer? Or am I to expect you to be your usual son-of-a-bitch?"

"Was-al, this is probly the last I'll see of you, Bobby, so I thought...what the hell...No use bein' a shit like Swearngen on the last day we'll see each other."

See FICTION Concluded, page 18.

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Turkey sandwich

served with potato salad

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Grilled ham and swiss with grilled onion
with french fries

4.25

5.25

Sirloin Steak Sandwich with garnish and french fries

COLD AND READY IN MINUTES

Ham and Cheese sandwich

Turkey sandwich

served with potato salad

4.25

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AUGUST 3 - 9

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AUGUST 10 & 11

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EAT THE RICH

FICTION Concluded, from page 15.

"How do you know we won't see each other again?"

"You're goin' on to Honolulu to Scofield, ain't you?"

"Yes."

"Well, I ain't goin' to Honolulu. Only as far as the hospital ship."

"Swearengen is going to gig you when you get back...for going over his head to--"

"Who gives a shit about Barge-Bucket?"

I was beginning to admire Kurt Lautzenheizer for something other than his body and his simple-minded "courage" in the field.

* * * * *

The ramp came up and we were bouncing over the Pacific Ocean toward the hospital ship. I staggered my way toward the bow to my patient.

I gazed at him lying there bandaged and asleep, thinking again how vulnerable he appeared. His face, relaxed, seemed to take on the innocence that one sees in turn-of-the-century Fragonard cherub pictures. I considered the propaganda description of the Japanese soldier: vicious, fanatical, average height: five-feet-six. (Somehow "little" is synonymous with "enemy." if you want the enemy to be hated, make him little, atrocious, fanatical, vicious. And, as a final denigrator, make him homosexual.)

This man was not the hated "Jap," buck-toothed, wearing heavy glasses over slanty eyes like those "dirty" traitors five years ago in Washington, smiling and bowing.

This one touched my heart strings.

Suddenly I thought if I kept gazing at him, he would awaken and catch me watching him, and I would be embarrassed. I turned away and began to make the "rounds" of the other patients.

As I reached the stern of the boat where Lautzenheizer was standing, proving he could stand against the awful pitch of the boat, I heard somebody shout: "Hey! Don't do that!...Medic! Medic!"

I turned in time to see a hospital-gowned figure crawl over the rail and go into the ocean.

Somebody shouted: "Man overboard! Man overboard!"

I glanced from bed to bed just long enough to realize that it was Tokuo who was overboard. And before I could turn back to Lautzenheizer, he was overboard with him.

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH)

FAUX PAS

by Ed. E. Kett

Dear Mr. Kett,

Talk about love at first sight! I just met the man of my dreams. I've only known him for three wonderful days, but on the second day he suggested that we get an AIDS test. I thought that was kind of rushing things. Should I be offended?

Yours,
Kyle

Dear Kyle,

You should feel flattered, honey. The man of your dreams just proposed. Hope you have a long and happy relationship!

Dear Eddie,

I've been meeting a lot of men lately, and each one of them has a different reason as to why he's not at risk of getting AIDS and doesn't need to worry about safe sex. What should I believe

Always,
Randall

Dear Randall,

The FACTS! And only the FACTS! Go to your doctor or local health clinic. The situation is too serious to take anything on faith.

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A-MAYS-ING GAYS

by Jay Mays
Moving Lesbians

Although I've been laughing off and on for the last month or more, today I can find very little humor in moving to another apartment.



My lover and I have been tightly stashed away in a Waikiki one-bedroom for 18 years, and I do mean tightly! We've been snug in love, and with a 12-year old poi dog and a bewitchingly fat, ever-so-soft black cat 9 years old. Happiness is two dykes, two sweet furries, and the Hawaiian sky!

We are hermits really, content to just stay at home on the lanai watching the clouds roll by. Nothing could dislodge us except the grim reaper, but not so. The apartment house sold to some wealthy person in

Japan, and the rent went up 65%, and that got these two lavender wahines off their okoles wiki-wiki! (Translation: females off their asses fast!)

We found a beautiful apartment nearby in only a week because a good gay man helped us, a dear friend of 8 years. He has been exceptionally sweet to us all along, but never so wonderful as in the past month. And we'd find 6 more wonderful gay guys to help us move and to cheer us up. (Where were our sisters? That would fill another article.)

We had to borrow \$1000 from a bank to make the extra rent, and my loyal, long-suffering mother gave us \$200 for incidentals (without my even asking). But even with all of these blessings, and my bountiful sense of humor, positive attitude, and general braininess, today I cracked up. A zillion tiny pieces are gripping this pen, all of them with rage. I am angry with the system, and a few specific men (property owners and their helpers), and also I'm very mad at myself and my innocent lover. I say "innocent" because she doesn't deliberately do things that cause me misery, and she tries very hard to please me. I'm sure she'd say the same about me. After 30 years of togetherness, we know each other quite well, but we're still individuals, and we do things differently. And we fight now and then, but with words only thank goodness.

To say that this move has strained our relationship is to say that Hawaiian sunsets are dull. We have both been hugely drained by the strain of packing and lifting at least one million separate pieces of our "estate." This includes GALAH (Gay and Lesbian Archives of Honolulu, unofficial), 20,000 postcards, a stamp collection, 3 or 4 boxes of jewelry I haven't worn since becoming a butch 10 years ago, 12 cubic feet of red and green ornaments with tree, 59 trillion books and zines, you get the idea. Nothing was thrown out to speak of, unless the dog went on it, for 18 years.

We've learned our lesson. At least 5 truckloads of stuff has now been thrown and given away. Funny though, it hasn't made any difference at all. We're still up to the ceiling in our new place! There's a lot less dust, fewer cobwebs and bugs, less pee; but why isn't there enough room? Got to keep on thinning it out so we can have friends over like I've wanted to for so long--friends who save our life and sanity, gay and good, ages 20-78, any color as long as it's lavender, and flavor as long as it's chocolate, ah--I'm beginning to love again. The rage is going away now.

I'll wait until tomorrow to kill the property owner and his enablers. Today is becoming twilight as I write, and my life is "feeling more bettah." Our little furries are in Heaven (we were forced to put them to sleep) and we still mourn them, as some of you will understand. Our fridge is bare and our bills overdue, as many of you will understand. Our happiness is returning maybe, and our love for each other is constantly there I'm sure.

This is the fourth move we've weathered together, and each one is harder. I wonder what this means. I'd like some answers and solutions before No. 5 happens. Moving Lesbians are pooped lesbians. But I love you. Aloha until next month!

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BOOKS! BOOKS!! BOOKS!!!

THE DEVIL THUMBS A RIDE & OTHER UNFORGETTABLE FILMS by Barry Gifford, Grove Press Paperback, 163 pages, \$7.95.

Reviewed by Dean Stonehocker

Ya gotcher classic *noir*, yer phlegm *noir*, and yer *film noir outre*. And ya gotcher *snake-noir*, under-*noir*, ultra-*noir*, and science-fiction *noir*. Then there's yer *la vie noire*, yer ultra-phony *noir*, and--oh yah, don't forgit yer top-notch *noir-ville*. And that, doll face, about sums it up.

Barry Gifford's reviews, or "essays on film," originally published in *Mystery Scene Magazine* and collected here deal with film noir as it appeared in American films from "the lowest of the B's to the biggest of the A's."

The book's introduction by Edward Gorman (editor, *Mystery Scene*) and Don Mossman (novelist and *film noir* aficionado) claims Gifford has rescued from oblivion films "difficult and bleak," "rarely applauded," even "held in contempt." "He brings to these pages," they write, "his gifts--tapped-out humor, dignified anger, an ear for the subtle and most valuable kind of gossip--that can illuminate not only the movies but also our own experience."

A prolific writer, Gifford is an expatriot mid-westerner now settled in northern California. Author of three novels: *Landscape and Traveler*, *Port Tropicque*, and *An Unfortunate Woman*, he has also written fictional memoirs, several books of poetry, and biographies of Jack Kerouac and William S. Burroughs.

Gifford describes his reviews as "off-the-top-of-the-head, two a.m. on the kitchen tables piece, uncumbered by stultifying academic influence of any kind."

Gifford's style is often poetic as in, for example, his description of the smoke and light in *The Big Combo* (1955), "...the tentacles of light directed at us and slowed down so that the smoke curls and wraps around the darkness like reticulate pythons."

He can also be quite funny as, for instance, he writes of the 1946 low-budget thriller *House of Horrors*, "A personal favorite of mine, *House of Horrors* is a fractured exegesis on art, love, and curvature of the spine." Or as when he claims, "I walked with a *Zombie* is the voodoo version of *Jane Eyre*."

It's a book everyone will enjoy reading. In fact, my only complaint echoes Gorman and Mossman's who warn: "...this book is going to make you want to run out and locate one of [these movies] (and good luck to you, finding *The Devil Thumbs a Ride* could take a lifetime)."

CHARLES LAUGHTON: A DIFFICULT ACTOR by Simon Callow, Grove Press, Hardcover, 299 pages, photos, index.

I don't think I'll ever again be able to watch the 1939 *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (in which Laughton starred) without seeing Quosimodo as a genuine outer reflection of the inner Charles Laughton. If he was known as "difficult," Mr. Callow implies, it's because he was an equal combination of artistic genius and self-loathing man.

This book is a thorough and bang-up job. It takes the reader through Laughton's life (focusing primarily on his professional life) play by play, film by film, project by project. It's a sympathetic, detailed portrait of a prudishly Victorian closet homosexual, a hotelier turned actor, an actor turned teacher, a teacher turned self-parodying ham.

Simon Callow is a remarkable writer/actor/director/translator as well as a biographer. He appeared in three recent films: *Amadeus*, *A Room with a View*, and *Maurice*. He has also written a book on acting, *Being an Actor*. Laughton couldn't have asked for a more competent biographer.

Laughton was born in 1899 in a hotel owned and operated

by his parents. After school, he assumed the management of a London hotel presented to him by his parents. After his first taste of theatrics in an amateur production, however, he dropped everything to work in the theatre. He was an overnight success. Within a few years he was earning a small fortune making Hollywood films, acting at the Old Vic, as well as appearing on Broadway.

He was married early in his life to an actress, Elsa Lanchester. They remained married until his death in 1962, in spite of the fact that Ms. Lanchester was aware of Laughton's homosexuality from an evening early in their marriage when Charles came home accompanied by a policeman. Laughton had solicited the wrong young man who had called for the police. The case was dismissed, fortunately, by a sympathetic (perhaps gay?) magistrate. But after he apologized to Elsa for embarrassing her, she simply let the matter drop.

Mr. Callow's writing is clear and concise. He deals with the more obscure problems of film and stage acting in comprehensible terms. And he briskly moves the story of Laughton's quixotic life along before it can hesitate or stall.]

He summarizes things nicely. "For Charles," Callow writes, "[his Roman Catholic education] instilled a lifelong guilt deep in his breast--a guilt which easily attached itself to his desire to make love to men, but which was in fact a more general guilt: a sense of not being right in the world, of not deserving what the world has to offer. It was the bane of his life. Or perhaps it was his making."

Couples Needed for National Survey

A national survey of lesbian and gay couples is being undertaken by PARTNERS: The Newsletter For Gay & Lesbian Couples. The study will help determine the nature and needs of this often invisible segment of the gay community. The last major survey of gay and lesbian couples was conducted almost ten years ago.

All gay men and lesbians in a relationship are asked to participate in the survey. The short, anonymous questionnaire requests general information on subjects such as discrimination, finances, children, relationship problems, and sources of relationship support.

To request survey forms, write PARTNERS, Box 9685, Seattle, WA 98109, and include a self-addressed, stamped business envelope. Groups or organizations are encouraged to request and distribute multiple copies. The PARTNERS mailing list is confidential, never lent or sold.

According to publisher Demian, "This information promises to be of immense interest, and it will arm social service providers and civil rights organizations with information they need."

PARTNERS is an 8-page monthly containing interviews, news, and features of interest to lesbian and gay couples.



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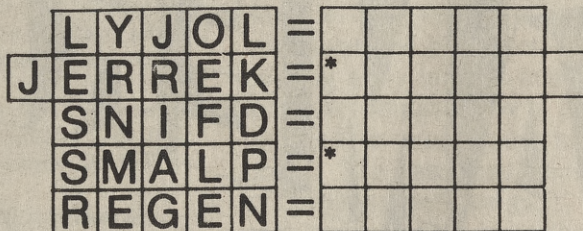
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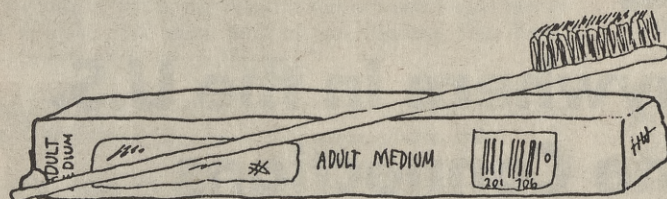
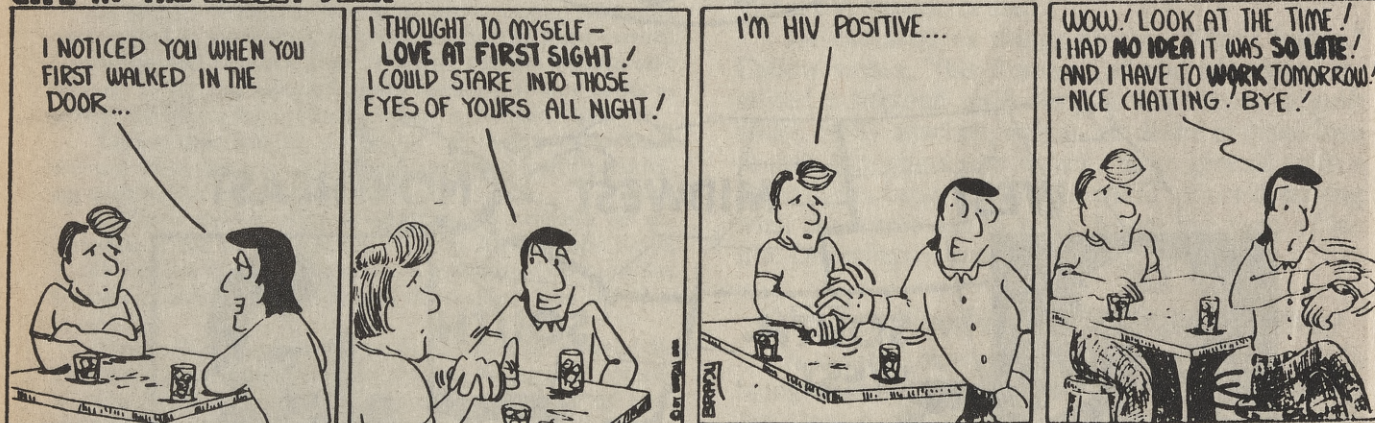
Answers in Classified Section

GAMES

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THE WIZARD OF OD
Unscramble the letters
and see what wise
saying he has for us.
* Several possibilities
here, but the Wiz
only likes one.

LIFE AT THE CLOSET DOOR

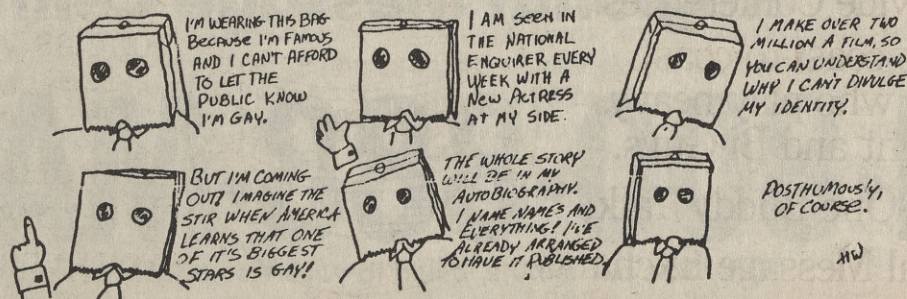


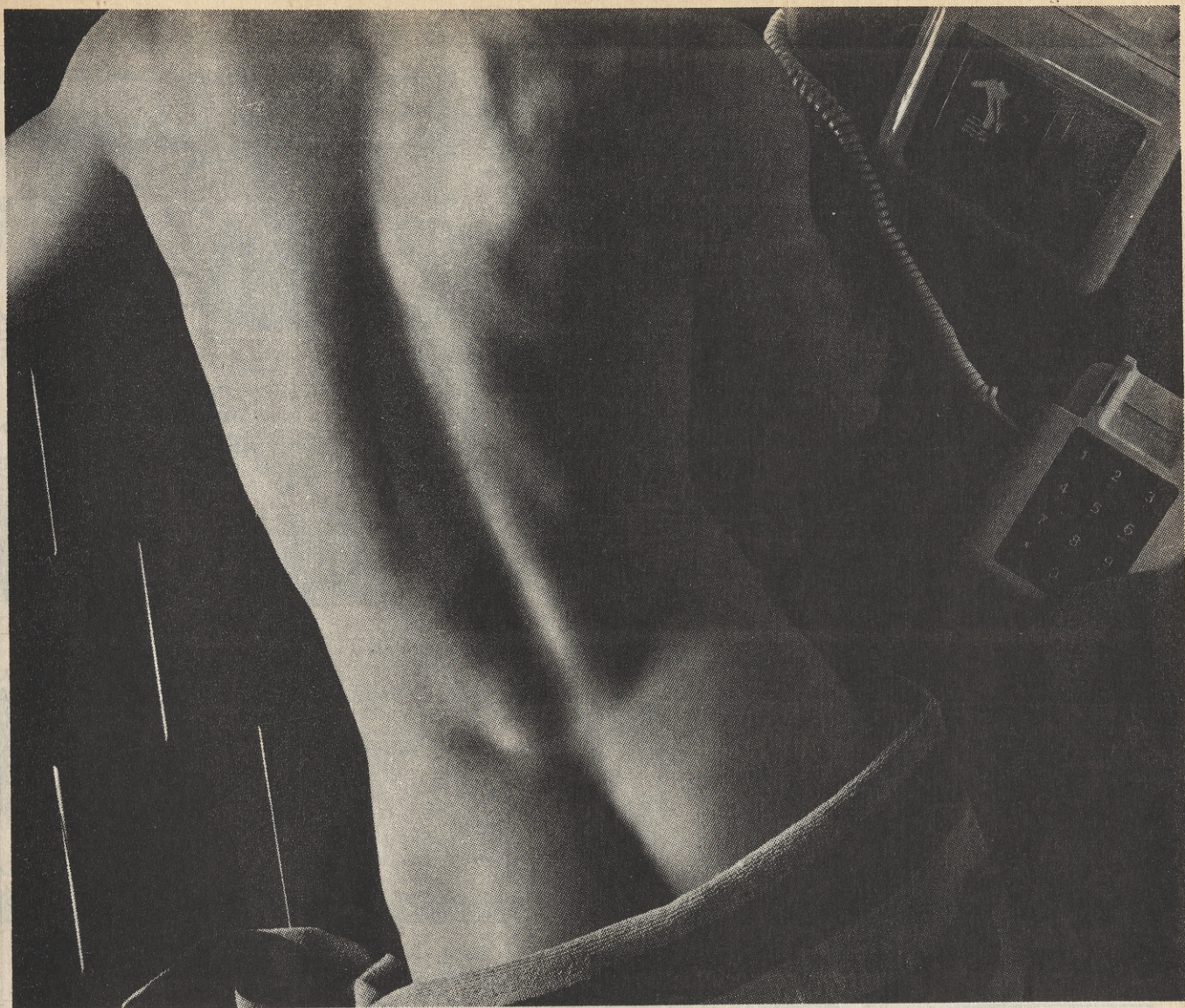
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PATLAR, August 1988, Page 25

Dykes to Watch Out For

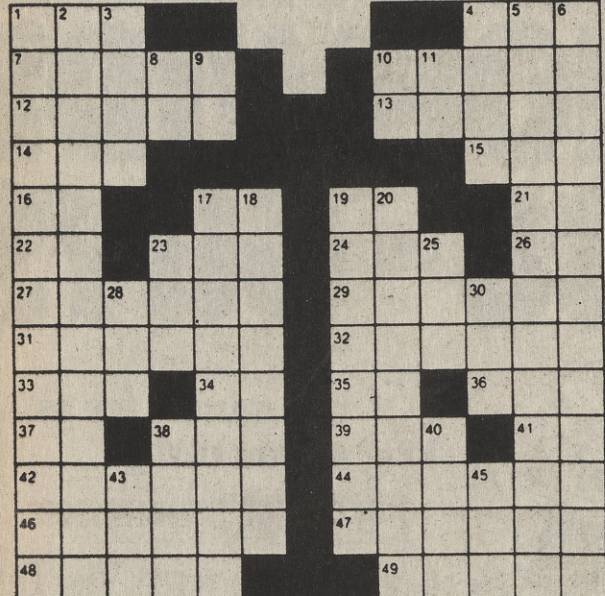


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BALMY PALMS

Answers in Classified Section



ACROSS

1. Sports cars
4. Feces group inits.

7. Spaces
10. Plagiarize
12. Toilet features
13. All-star tip (wd. & abbr.)

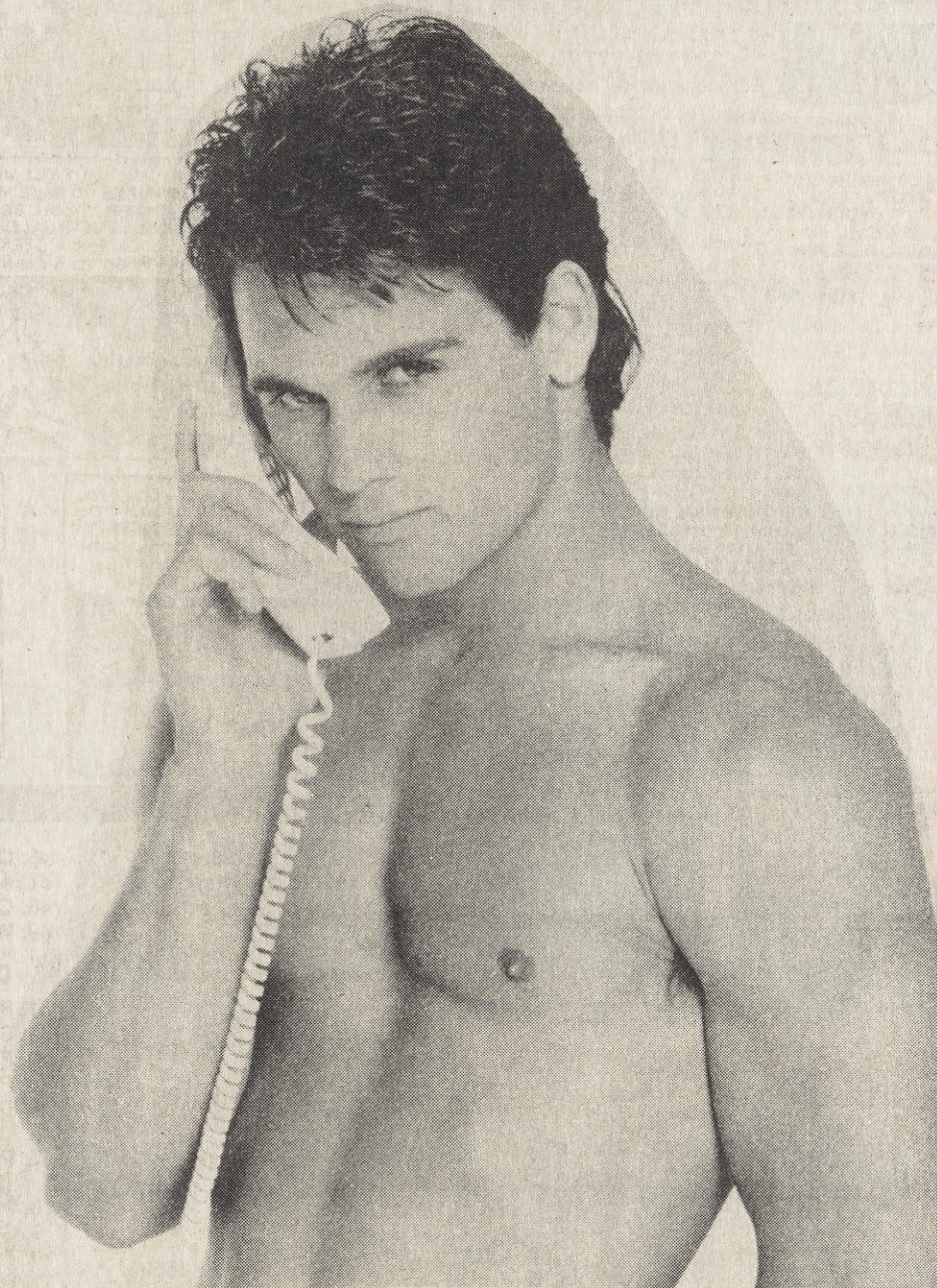
14. Black sealer
15. Greek letter
16. Volunteer school inits.
17. Instructor's school inits.
19. Navy pig?
21. Before (Lat. abbr.)
22. Van term
23. Honeyeater bird
24. Matador cry
26. Holy abbr.
27. Sea
29. Palm place
31. Middle of play (2 wds.)
32. Shows tired look (2 wds.)
33. Small bit
34. Article
35. State Rd
36. Volcano
37. Pronoun
38. Antelope
39. Muttonbird
41. Sea (abbr.)
42. Trap for 39 across (2 wds.)
44. Not chaste

46. Older woman (2 wds.)
47. Aircraft mfr.
48. Catch
49. Wise man

DOWN

1. Palm sex acts
2. Super trip (2 wds.)
3. Flame meat
4. Party
5. Disney skin flick (2 wds.)
6. Florida border (2 wds.)
8. Preposition
9. Gestapo inits.
10. Two way radio
11. Pronoun
17. Were Chinese
18. Palm fruits
19. Very brave (2 wds.)
20. Recesses
23. Communications Co.
25. Ram's companion
28. British Inc.
30. Biblical king
38. Growl
40. ____ facto
43. Bantu language
45. Unspoken communication (abbr.)

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